



Cornerstone

November 2018

Newsletter of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church

107 State Street, Albany, New York

From the Rector

Clueless Clergy

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.
(Proverbs 12: 15.)

It is true that clergy can be clueless. I have certainly met my share of them and been guilty myself. Clergy can be clueless about many things. Where this cluelessness matters most is in discerning the true needs of the parish. Clergy often get sidetracked with pet projects, personal agendas that seem wise in their own eyes, chasing after theological rabbits, and simply by the general priorities that they set.

One area in which cluelessness is most injurious concerns the questions of the laity. In other words, the questions that parishioners really have about the Faith and how to make sense of what they are hearing in the Bible and the culture that they inhabit each day. In clergy recruitment, one often sees those needs expressed by parish search committees. Usually, the parish seeks to correct the cluelessness of the past rector. "We are looking for XYZ skills" which the prior rector clearly lacked to the detriment of the faithful in the pews.

But there is one consistent concern in these parish profiles. It may take several forms, but it boils down to this: "preaching relevant sermons." I have to admit that most clergy bristle at this notion. Many matters of our Faith are inherently complex and deeply theological in nature. Scripture itself is complex and deeply theological in nature. It is not always possible to bring things down to the everyday. And of course, is the everyday what we are to be about in the first place? But there is also a fairness to the request for relevancy. Clueless clergy are frequently obtuse to a fault. Innate complexities aside, many clergy are simply poorer explainers than they care to acknowledge.

What makes a good explainer? Well, one thing is the gift to answer the questions people actually have. This point may seem obvious, but clueless clergy often strike out right there. If the questions people actually have also involve other questions not yet known to them, a good explainer can move the discussion through the needed steps without losing sight of the actual concern. Lest I be guilty of that very thing, let me get to the point.

I wrote about Alpha in my last newsletter article. Alpha is a series of brief talks on basic Christianity presented by Nicky Gumbel, a vicar in the Church of England. Alpha answers the questions people actually have. Nicky Gumbel is a very good explainer. One of our participants at St. Peter's shared that Rev. Gumbel has a gift for articulating what the member feels about his faith but can't yet put into words. Others are sharing that faith questions they have had most of their lives are being addressed in a manner they at last truly understand. As we make our way into Alpha as a group, it is becoming clearer and clearer to this frequently clueless clergyman that Alpha is answering the question folks really want answered in the manner they really want them answered. A discussion follows the DVD presentations with excellent questions presented in the handbook. These post-talk discussions have been profound in their depth and interest.

The writer of Proverbs has a point. The fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice. I'm listening! Please consider joining the Alpha course for the remaining talks. You can also wait until the spring and experience Alpha from the beginning. No doubt clueless clergy will continue clueless until the Lord's return, but I'm pretty sure about Alpha. Alpha is the real deal for your real questions.

God bless, Fr. Hartt+

From the Associate Rector

Give Thanks for All Things...

Often when I pray, I like to begin: “Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this day and for all things...” I then go on to list my thanks, my worries, my intercessions for others and also my needs. Yes, we give thanks for all things. Recently in the Daily Office lectionary, we were reading from the book of Job. Job was a man who really knew how to give thanks for all things. Job was rich spiritually and materialistically. But then Job suffered greatly losing his children and most of his possessions and even suffered terrible physical afflictions. Job had some friends who witnessed his suffering and felt he should curse God because of it. They insisted that it was Job’s sinfulness that caused his suffering. But Job was steadfast. He continued to trust God and even to praise and give thanks to him even while at his lowest. It takes deep faith to praise and thank God from that place.

This time of year, we are giving much attention to giving thanks through our planned Thanksgiving celebrations both here at St. Peter’s (on the 10th) and at home later in the month. Although this holiday is unique here in the US as we honor the pilgrims who traveled to this new world and celebrated their first successful harvest from this great land, giving thanks at this time of year is not unique to us in the United States. Having just returned from Northern Ireland in mid-October, many parishes there were holding Harvest Celebrations in church to give special thanks to God for their bountiful harvest and placing special Harvest decorations throughout church made from flowers, vegetables and other produce local to one’s area. Similarly, we will decorate our Altar with pantry and produce items, gifted by parishioners, and after Thanksgiving will donate them to a local food pantry for distribution to those in need.

It seems that from our own thankfulness, we are moved to be generous towards others. And even our holiday’s name itself, Thanksgiving, highlights this idea that thankfulness moves us towards giving. Our actions demonstrate this also. Beyond our altar donations, we will serve at Equinox preparing Thanksgiving meals for strangers, will donate pies and perhaps even cranberry, and will also donate Blessing bag items to be gifted to those who stay in our Overflow Homeless Shelter this winter. Shortly, many will start Christmas gift shopping for both friends and family members as well as families our church “adopts”. This is truly a Season for Thanks and for Giving... We are richly blessed, and we are happy to share generously with others.

But we might ask ourselves, would that change if we were also in a Season of Need? If we found ourselves in circumstances like Job, would it change our thanks or our giving? If we didn’t have canned goods, or produce or other material items to give, how would we show our thanks? If we found that we lacked personal goods, lost our home or even a beloved family member, or even if our health suffered; would we still find ourselves in a thankful state? What would our thoughts towards God be in such circumstances? Could you find yourself, like Job, continuing to trust and praise God? These are challenging thoughts.

This time of year, although marked with a spirit of Thanks and Giving, is also the hardest time of the year for many people who have suffered such losses. Loneliness abounds when one sees others gathering with friends and family, yet no invitation comes their way. Sadness enters when one watches feasting from afar yet dines on simple soup. Frustration can take hold when one wants to be generous and charitable and yet truly lacks the means to be so.

I’d like to stretch each of us this year to think beyond our normal Thanks and our usual Giving to how we might give of *ourselves*, understanding sometimes it is easier to donate goods than share our lives and our time. Is there someone you know of who is lonely this time of year and would greatly enjoy a seat at your Thanksgiving table? Is there an old relative or neighbor living in a nursing home facility that you might bless with a visit? Is there someone you know who lacks transportation that you might drive to church, to a holiday party, or even through the Capital Holiday Lights in the Park? Is there an organization that is coordinating a meal or an event for others that you could volunteer your time with?

Even if you find yourself in difficult circumstances, perhaps even like Job, doing these types of things will not only bless others, but may turn your Giving into Thanks! There is much to be received when one gives... Praying a blessed Thanksgiving season for each of you.

With Thanks,
Mtr. Sue+



**Just a Reminder,
Daylight Savings is November 4th
Fall back!!**

Daughters of the King

The November DOK meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11th. They will meet after the 10:30am service in the Vestry room.

Outreach

The November Outreach meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th at 4:30pm. Please join us to learn about Outreach ministries and hospitality events being planned!

Vestry Meeting

The November Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 13th at 5:15pm.

Thanksgiving Altar Donations

Again this year, for Thanksgiving, we will decorate the Altars with a bounteous display of food – cans, boxes, jars or packages destined for distribution to the food pantry. (No fresh foods that can spoil, please.) We are asking for contributions from the whole parish family so that our altars may truly reflect our dedication to community outreach. Donations may be left at the Church **before** Saturday morning, **November 17th** when the Flower Guild will be decorating the altars with food, instead of the usual flowers. These Thanksgiving altars are given in memory of Jan D'Agostino, beloved leader of St. Peter's Flower Guild, whose idea for this decoration has

Equinox Donations

Again this year, Equinox has again asked us to donate single serve applesauce in packs of 4 count or 6 count. Boxes will be located in the Pumpelly Room and in the Sunday School rooms. We will be collecting applesauce through Sunday, **November 18th**. Thank you in advance for your support.

Thanksgiving Eve Service of Holy Communion will be on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:30pm.

Equinox Volunteers Needed!

On Thanksgiving day we will be joining hundreds of volunteers in assembling Thanksgiving dinners for delivery for Equinox at the Empire State Plaza. Please join us for our time slot on Thanksgiving morning, **November 22nd from 7:30am to 9:30am**. If you have any questions, please call Laura Rulison at (518)368-4284.



Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Peter's

Saturday, November 10th, 2018

Beginning at 5:00pm

Dinner Served at 5:30pm

Please join us for our 8th Annual Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner as we celebrate the holiday together. St. Peter's will again supply the turkeys and we are looking for volunteers who are interested in helping out by cooking a turkey and bringing it already sliced to the dinner. For those who cannot help with the turkeys we ask you to please sign-up to bring one of the other many Thanksgiving side dishes or desserts. There are two sign-up sheets located in the Pumpelly Room: one sheet is to let us know what you are bringing and the other sheet is to let us know how many of you are coming. Or you may call the church office at (518)434-3502 to let us know.

We also ask you to please bring a donated food item (canned goods, rice, cereal, etc.) to be included in our traditional Thanksgiving Altar display. These items will then be donated to our local food pantry for distribution. For more information or to help with the dinner (set-up, cooking or clean-up) please contact Janice Chenot at (518)786-1070 or jechenot@hotmail.com.

Service of Remembrance

Thursday, December 6th at 7:00pm: An ecumenical prayer service will be held to gather and remember our departed loved ones. Each remembrance will be signified by the lighting of a candle and an ornament placed on our Remembrance Tree. A reception follows the service in the Pumpelly Room. We thank Judy Burns for coordinating this annual prayer event.

Blessing Bag Donations

To assist and offer comfort for the women who stay in our overflow shelter the Daughters of the King will be assembling Blessing Bags on Sunday, December 9th. These are small (quart size) bags of good will and hospitality that are given to people who may need some cheer and comfort. Please consider bringing an offering of care products such as tooth paste, tooth brush, a comb, scented lotion, hair bands, mints, candies, wipes, granola bars, travel deodorant, lip balms, band aids, cotton swabs, small cracker packets, Slim Jim snacks, feminine pads/wipes, small tissue packets, small note pads and pens can also be useful. Products that contain alcohol such as mouth wash and hand sanitizer should not be included (hand sanitizer wipes are ok). Please bring in your donations by Sunday, December 9th. If you'd like to join the Daughters in assembling the bags, please join us in the Vestry Room immediately following the 10:30am service.

Adult Education



ALPHA SERIES: Alpha is a series of talks exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk is presented in DVD form. The program comes out of the Church of England. The DVD talks are followed by open conversation in small groups. The Alpha program is now run around the globe. Everyone is welcome, but the

program aims at those with fundamental questions about the Christian faith. Alpha is especially suitable for seekers. St. Peter's will run Alpha formally in the spring. However, the program needs lay leaders to help facilitate the discussions. Fr. Hartt is looking for volunteers to experience the Alpha program in a somewhat accelerated form prior to our running it in the spring. You need not commit to being a discussion leader in order to attend these introductory sessions. Please join us to learn more about Alpha.

REMAINING ALPHA DATES:

Monday, November 5th at 6:00pm	Wednesday, November 28th at 6:00pm (double)
Wednesday, November 14th at 6:00pm	Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00pm (double)
Saturday, November 17th at 9:00am	Wednesday, December 12th at 6:00pm

Book and Bible Study

Our Father Who Art in Heaven

Referencing Matthew 6:9-13 and *Abba: Meditations on the Lord's Prayer*, by Evelyn Underhill, Mother Sue invites you to join the final sessions of our Book and Bible Study on Tuesday evenings from 5:00pm-6:30pm in the Vestry Room of the Guild House (next door to the church).



Class Date	Underhill Chapter	Biblical Text
November 6, 2018	Chapter 8	Lead us not into Temptation, but Deliver us from Evil
November 20, 2018	Chapter 9	For Thine is the Kingdom, Power and Glory
November 27, 2018	Final Class	Concluding Thoughts



St. Peter's Church Interior Restoration Fund Campaign

We are in the final phase of the Every Member Restoration Fund Campaign. The Campaign will end with celebratory remarks at the Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 10th. Your generosity has been overwhelming--but we are short of our goal of every member participation. We ask you to be part of the giving community, to ensure that we preserve our Church building for the next generation and beyond. A contribution of any amount will be greatly appreciated. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please mail your gift to the St. Peter's Church Restoration Fund at 107 State Street, Albany, NY 12207.

The Committee thanks you in advance for your participation.

Bible Symposium

“The Book of Revelation for the Church Today”
Hosted by the Cathedral of All Saints

**Saturday, November 3, 2018
8:30AM-1:30PM**

Featuring
The Rt. Rev. Professor Grant LeMarquand, Th.D,
Retired Bishop of Ethiopia and the Horn of Africa
Visiting Professor of New Testament,
Trinity School for Ministry

Registration Fee \$20

Information/Registration at:
<https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/bible-symposium/>

Youth Formation & Sunday School

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Many new and exciting things happening at St. Peter's.....

We are celebrating Youth Sunday, the last Sunday of every month. Father Hartt and Mother Sue have captivated the children with their own Eucharistic service. The children are able to participate with all aspects of the service. Please come and join us.

The Sunday School will be baking pumpkin bread on **Sunday, November 11th**. Please allow the children to wear old clothes so they may enjoy the wonders of baking. There will be a blessing of the bread on **Sunday, November 18th** and each member of the church will be able to take a loaf home to share for Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Also, on **November 18th**, we will be collecting single serve applesauce in 4 count or 6 count packs for Equinox. Taking it one step further, we are volunteering at the Empire State Plaza on **Thanksgiving morning, November 22nd** from 7:30am to 9:30am. While there, we will be assembling Thanksgiving dinners for delivery. Please wear a baseball cap.

During the month of **November**, we will be collecting gently used coats for people of need at the soup kitchen. Please drop off your donations in the front office or upstairs in the Sunday School. All sizes are needed for men, women, and children.

Mark your calendars: The Christmas Pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 9th**.

We need angels and shepherds, etc. Please join us on Sunday, December 2nd to get parts and costumes.

Any questions or comments, please give me a call at (518)368-4284.

Blessings,
Laura Rulison



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Christian Education/Formation

Confirmation Class: Confirmation instruction for adults and youth (aged 13+) will begin on Sunday, November 11th. The classes will be co-led by Fr. Hartt and Mtr. Sue and will meet over the course of the next few months following the 10:30am service in the Vestry Room (with springtime Confirmation being planned). Please note that regular church worship attendance, along with Confirmation classes, are an ongoing expectation for those seeking Confirmation. Please speak with Fr. Hartt or Mtr. Sue if you (or your youth) are interested in joining us.

St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen

Saturday, November 17th ~ 11AM to 1PM

On the 3rd Saturday of every month St. Peter's Church is committed to preparing and serving lunch to 100+ people at the St. Francis Mission Soup Kitchen (formerly known as Grace and Holy Innocents) located at 498 Clinton Avenue in Albany. We invite you, and the youth of our church (the Angels in Training) along with their friends, to join Laura Rulison (our Director of Christian Education) in helping with this outreach program that is in such desperate need of volunteers. For information or to let her know you are coming please call Laura at (518)368-4284.

Overflow Homeless Shelter

Could you consider giving up one evening this winter to offer the gift of hospitality and show another the love and mercy of God?

The St. Peter's Overflow Homeless Shelter will open for its 10th season on Saturday, December 1st to augment the ministry of the Capital City Rescue Mission to Albany's homeless. Again this year, we will be housing up to 10 women each evening through March 2019.

We are currently receiving donations of food items and financial support and are also scheduling volunteers to offer hospitality during the evening hours from 8pm until 11pm on the 2nd floor of the Guild House (next to the church). To sign up to volunteer, please call Judy Burns at (518)441-7538 or email stpeterschurch.albany@gmail.com. Orientation for new (or returning volunteers) will be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 7:00pm or Saturday, November 17th at 10:00am at St. Peter's Church, 107 State St., Albany NY 12207.

Food items needed include: coffee, tea, sugar, popcorn and snacks, cereal (hot and cold), peanut butter, bread, fresh fruit, milk and juice along with fresh baked items. These can be dropped off at the church office any weekday, or brought to church on Sundays and given to Ian or Pat. Thank you in advance for your continued prayers and support.

November 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
 Count Your Blessings			
4 All Saints' Sunday Healing Prayers 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	5 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal 6:00pm - Alpha Course	6 5:00pm - Book & Bible Study	7 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho Albany Dioces
11 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer 11:45am - DOK Meeting Sunday School Baking Pumpkin Bread	12 Veteran's Day (observed) Office Closed No Treble Make-up Rehearsal	13 4:30pm - Outreach Meeting 5:15pm - Vestry Meeting No Book & Bible Study	14 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Alp 7:00pm - Ove Tra
18 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Holy Communion	19 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	20 5:00pm - Book & Bible Study	21 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 5:30pm to 7: 7:30pm - Tha
25 Last Sunday after Pentecost Christ the King Sunday Youth Sunday 8:30am - Holy Communion 10:30am - Morning Prayer	26 5:00pm - Treble Make-up Rehearsal	27 5:00pm - Book & Bible Study (last group meeting)	28 8:45am - Top 12:05pm - Ho 6:00pm - Alp

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1 All Saints' Day</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>2 Commemoration of All Faithful Departed</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30am to 1:00pm - Bible Symposium at Cathedral of All Saints</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion</p> <p>se Priest Retreat</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p> <p>Albany Diocese Priest Retreat</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p> <p>Albany Diocese Priest Retreat</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:00pm - Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner</p> <p>Albany Diocese Priest Retreat</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion ha Course erflow Shelter aining</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:30pm - Organ Concert</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:00am - Alpha Course 9:30am - Harvest Altar Decorating 10:00am - Overflow Shelter Training 11:00am - Angels in Training</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion 00pm - Full Choir Rehearsal anksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>22 Thanksgiving Day</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>7:30am to 9:30am - Equinox Volunteers to pack dinners for delivery</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>o of the Hill ly Communion ha Course</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:00pm - Treble Rehearsal 5:30pm - Full Choir</p>	<p>30 St. Andrew the Apostle</p> <p>12:30 Organ Concert</p>	<p><i>Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good. Psalm 107:1</i></p> 

St. Peters Music



CHOIR

Choir rehearsals are on the following schedule:

Mondays: 5:00pm - 6:15pm Treble Make-up Rehearsal

Thursdays: 5:00pm - 6:30pm Trebles

5:30pm - 7:00pm Adult choristers

Sundays: 9:30am rehearsal for the 10:30am service

We are eager to welcome boys and girls age 8 to grade 8 to join the Treble section of the choir. Please contact Neil Keen at (518)339-0137 for further information. There are also openings for singers of high school age and above.

FRIDAY NOONTIME ORGAN CONCERTS

Free half-hour recitals each Friday at 12:30pm



~ HANDEL'S MESSIAH ~

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2nd

at 3:00 PM

Presented by St. Peter's Choir,
accompanied by a small orchestra.

No charge for admission. Donations will be received.

Singing in the Choir is good for you

There have been numerous studies demonstrating the benefits of singing in a choir, particularly for children.

Among the benefits for all choral singers are:

- Reduces anxiety levels
- Increases mental alertness
- Improves lung function
- Benefits academic performance
- Improves feeling of well being
- Is a natural anti-depressant
- Widens your circle of friends
- Helps with sleep
- and even increases life expectancy

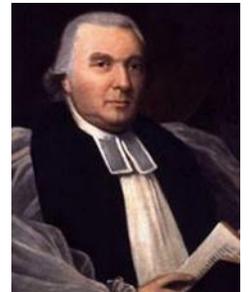
If you know of a young person who might benefit from singing with us as a treble in the choir, or someone of any age who might like to join in the singing, please contact Neil Keen for the details.

We have recently reduced the rehearsal commitment for trebles to one weekday evening, rather than two. We hope this change may enable more boys and girls to reap the benefits of singing in the choir.

Saint of the Month Club

NOVEMBER 14: THE CONSECRATION OF SAMUEL SEABURY, 1784

Samuel Seabury, the first bishop of the Episcopal Church, was born in Groton, Connecticut, November 30th, 1729. After ordination in England in 1753, he was assigned, as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to Christ Church, New Brunswick, New Jersey. In 1757, he became rector of Grace Church, Jamaica, Long Island, and in 1766, rector of St. Peter's, Westchester County. During the American Revolution, he remained loyal to the British crown and served as a chaplain in the British army. After the Revolution, a secret meeting of Connecticut clergymen in Woodbury, held on March 25th, 1783, named Seabury or the Rev. Jeremiah Leaming, whichever would be able or willing, to seek episcopal consecration in England. They extended the call first to Leaming, who declined; Seabury then accepted, and sailed for England. After a year of negotiation, Seabury found it impossible to obtain episcopal orders from the Church of England because, as an American citizen, he could not swear allegiance to the crown. He then turned to the non-juring bishops of the Episcopal Church in Scotland. On November 14th, 1784, in Aberdeen, he was consecrated by the bishop and the bishop coadjutor of Aberdeen and the bishop of Ross and Caithness in the presence of many people. On his return home, Seabury was recognized as Bishop of Connecticut in Convocation on August 3rd, 1785, at Middletown. With Bishop William White, he was active in the organization of the Episcopal Church at the General Convention of 1789. Seabury kept his promise, made in a concordat with the Scottish bishops, to persuade the American Church to adopt the Scottish form for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In 1790, Seabury became responsible for episcopal oversight of the churches in Rhode Island; and, at the General Convention of 1792, he participated in the first consecration of a bishop on American soil, 567 that of John Claggett of Maryland. Seabury died on February 25th, 1796, and is buried beneath St. James' Church, New London.



Collect:

We give thanks to thee, O Lord our God, for thy goodness in bestowing upon this church the gift of the episcopate; and we pray that, joined together in unity with our bishops and nourished by thy holy sacraments, we may proclaim the Gospel of redemption with apostolic zeal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

From the Archives

Plaques on State Street



In the early days of Albany, State Street (then called Jonkers Street) was a road for wagons, people and cows and buildings were constructed right on the street. Three plaques were erected in the center berm of State Street to commemorate these early buildings. The wording on these plaques is given below:

Plaque 1 – English Church

St. Peter's Church was originally constructed in 1715 located in the center of State Street at Chapel Street, upon land granted by King George I.

This stone structure stood until 1802 when a second church was erected at the north west corner of State and Lodge Streets. The present St. Peter's Church was constructed in 1859.

Plaque 2 – Market House

The Market House was erected in 1704 located in the center of State Street west of James Street.

The market was a wooden structure open on all sides.

It featured a number of stalls with heavy tables for the selling of all types of produce.

Market days were held on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Plaque 3 – Fort Frederick

Governor Edmund Andros made an inspection in Albany in 1676 and found Fort Orange, located near the foot of Madison Avenue in poor condition.

He ordered a new fort constructed at a site in the center of State Street just west of Lodge Street.

After being reconstructed several times the fort was removed following the revolution in 1784.

***For God alone my
soul in silence
waits***

Psalm 62:1



An Advent Retreat



Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 2018
Friday - Saturday

Advent Retreat

“Advent is the season of the secret, the secret of the growth of Christ, of Divine Love growing in silence.

It is the season of humility, silence and growth. For nine months Christ grew in His Mother's body. By His own will she formed Him from herself, from the simplicity of her daily life. She had nothing to give Him but herself. He asked for nothing else. She gave Him herself.” The Reed of God by Caryll Houselander

In this season of humility, silence and growth come away to give of yourself in prayer and contemplation in order to invite Christ to grow more fully in you.

November 30--December 1, 2018

Facilitators: Dcn. Lynne Crimi and Dcn. Lynne Curtis

Registration/Information at::

http://www.ctkcenter.org/retreat_registration_details

**MINUTES FOR THE VESTRY MEETING
ST. PETER'S PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

September 11, 2018

Present: Fr. Hartt, Mtr. Sue Waldron, D. Spath, J. Chenot, N. Creagan, C. Gordon, F. Hershey, M. Holden, S. Lencewicz, T. Murphy, G. Scala, A. Spath
Absent: K. Cehowski

Opening Prayer Led by Father Paul Hartt

Approval of the Minutes of Vestry Meeting, June 12th, 2018. The June 12th, 2018 minutes were approved on a motion by M. Holden and seconded by T. Murphy. The motion was unanimously approved by the vestry.

Warden Report - D. Spath

We would like to start by welcoming the vestry back from a short summer break. This past Sunday, September 9th, the choir returned beginning their new musical season as well as welcoming the Sunday school, returning for registration and baking prayer pretzels for the congregation to enjoy after the 10:30 service. Many thanks to Laura Rulison for her continuing support leading our Sunday school programs as well as those who will be taking care of the younger children in the nursery in the months ahead. Sunday, September 16th, we will be hosting our annual church picnic at the church rectory. Each year we look forward to celebrating this important day that brings the congregation together sharing great food and enjoying everyone's fellowship. During the summer months we saw many new faces and families that were returning on a regular basis and hope that they will be able to join us and get to know our loving congregation. Sadly we had to say goodbye to our secretary Angie Schlossberg in the beginning of August. Angie's husband Steve accepted the position of rector to an Episcopal church in Richmond, Virginia. We would like to thank her for all her work during her time with us and wish her and her family the best through this transition. During the month of August while looking for Angie's replacement, Janice Chenot took over the weekly duties as well as continuing her own workload in the office. Janice has been working as a volunteer at St. Peter's for well over nine years and we want to thank her for all the dedication and impeccable work she puts forth over and above each week for St. Peter's. On September 5th, Ruth Manss started as our new full time administrative assistant in the office. We welcome her and look forward her bringing her skills to St. Peter's as we begin our new church season. We also would like to thank Mother Sue for covering Father Hartt's duties while he was away on vacation in July. We are so very fortunate to have such an incredible clergy dedicated to all of us at St. Peter's with the ability to cover our spiritual needs at all times – thank you both. Fall programs and classes will begin shortly, First Communion, Confirmation Classes, Bible studies, just to name a few. Mother Sue will start with her book and bible study on September 18th. Our financial portfolios with Merrill Lynch and Key did very well during the summer months as the stock market continued to move in a positive direction. We would like to thank George Scala for his work with our investments and reports that he generates each month for the vestry and congregation. The interior restoration project started in beginning of this spring and has gained traction in a few ways. The sample wall for viewing the intended color that will be used was well received with all but positive comments and we will move forward with the color as displayed in the back of the church. A brochure is being printed this week which explains the entire scope of the interior restoration as we move forward and will be sent out to all the parishioners early in the next few weeks. Lastly, the \$100,000.00 matching grant is very close to being matched and we are striving to achieve the first phase of the project of \$220,000.00. We would like to thank all those who have already made a financial commitment to this project and look forward to getting the brochure out to everyone so those who may not have had the opportunity to contribute to the first phase may do so or possibly look ahead at possibly committing to the next phases we will be working on. Each year we continue to look for those interested in volunteering on committees such as the Flower, Altar, and Usher guilds. We look forward seeing new members as well as those who may think they might be interested to inquire about these important ministries that are vital to our church life. St. Peter's is very fortunate to have many dedicated members who volunteer a considerable amount of time to these committees and we would like to thank them for their continued support and commitment to all these important missions within the church life. We hope to see everyone at the parish picnic.

Sunday Attendance - Fr Hartt Average Sunday attendance is now 110

Rectors Report - Father Hartt

It was a busy summer at St. Peter's. The clergy were busy with hospital and pastoral concerns at an unusually high level. Fr. Hartt was encouraged by the wonderful response of parishioners to several of these situations. There is great love and concern for one another here. Ruth Manss began work as our new office manager after Labor Day. Her skills are excellent. Fr. Hartt believes that we have been blessed once more with an able and faithful support staff. The tent people are at the rectory setting up for the Parish Picnic. It is predicted that the weather will be good this weekend. The past Sunday was encouraging. We had three rows of kids for the children's homily. Sunday School registration makes for healthy attendance and an uplift in the church. The "blessing of the backpacks" went quite well. The backpack donations were substantial again. The parish is generous in outreach. Our Choir has returned and sang beautifully this past Sunday. There was a faithful core of singers during the summer. They did a fine job. Fr. Hartt was thankful for that summer support. He was also encouraged by the number of visitors this summer, which included three families with children looking for a church home. We often think about the needs of the homeless during the winter. But this summer had a number of cases coming to us. There was a young woman on the steps of the parish office without shoes on her feet. Another couple feel asleep in the church. Fr. Hartt spoke of an increased knowledge of local resources. Catholic Charities has been especially helpful this past summer. As most know, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church convened this past July and passed a new resolution on same-sex marriage. Resolution B012 intends to make same-sex marriage rites available in every diocese, under the authority of the rector. This led to a meeting of the clergy with Bishop Love on September 6th. He wanted to hear from his clergy. Bishop Love issued a letter to the Diocese shortly after our meeting. Bishop Love wrote that he would be sharing his intentions for our Diocese in the working out of B012 prior to its effective date of December 2nd. Fr. Hartt said that he believed it appropriate to wait on Bishop Love's comprehensive response before addressing B012 in any detail with the parish. Clearly, feelings are strong on this matter and it must be handled with candor, love, and care. There will be no greater issue to confront us this year. We all need to be praying for mutual charity. Fr. Hartt spoke to the Vestry about B012 under "New Business." As Fr. Hartt wrote in the parish newsletter, he intends to run the ALPHA program twice this year. ALPHA is a basic course in Christianity aimed at "seekers." The fall session will be for those who might be interested in staffing the program in the spring. Fr. Hartt thanked Jim Chenot, George Scala, Maria Holden, and Fred Hersey for their many labors on the interior restoration fund-raising. We are moving nicely toward our needed target of \$220,000. Father Hartt thanked all who have contributed to the campaign thus far.

Fr. Hartt received news of the death in August of Barbara Welt. Fr. Hartt shared this news with the Vestry and will remember Barbara in the prayers of Sunday. Fr. Hartt offered a reflection on ordained ministry at the Ordinands retreat this Saturday. He has been asked to serve on the staff of the Diocese's Deacon School. Despite the coming challenges around B0122, Fr. Hartt said that he is excited about the coming year.

Finance - G. Scala - Treasurer's Report

George reviewed the Treasurer's Report for June, July and August. Offerings YTD through August were \$131,441. This compares to a budgeted number of \$184,867. YTD Offerings through the same period in 2017 were \$147,327.

The investment/endowment accounts both showed gains over the summer. Merrill Lynch shows a YTD return of 6.12%. The Key accounts showed a positive YTD return of 4.01%. This leaves us with a positive variance in this area YTD of \$106,696. Both accounts performed favorably versus market indexes. Expenses YTD through August were \$12,130 under budget.

Pledges for 2018 remain at 42 pledging units for a total amount of \$119,720.

Givings and pledges for the restoration project are very positive and continue to come in. There was discussion concerning stewardship and budget which will be discussed at the October meeting.

Property -

We will be purchasing 2 new fans for the choir stalls in the church. They are both very old and one does not oscillate which made for a very hot summer for the choristers. There are a few windows that need replacing and they will be assessed. Over the summer, a tree was struck by lightning at the Rectory and it fell on the neighbor's fence. This was an expense that we needed to pay to replace. The wash machine and dishwasher were broken and therefore replaced in the 4th floor apartment of the Guild House. Looking forward, the driveway at the Rectory needs to be coated soon, and there is some slate on the roof of the church that needs to be inspected before winter.

Outreach - Mother Sue

St. Peter's is invited to attend the Capital City Rescue Mission's Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on Tuesday October 9, 2018 (a scheduled Vestry night). Fr. Hartt along with Jim Chenot will attend the banquet on our church's behalf, and October Vestry night is moved to October 10, 2018.

We will be opening our Overflow Homeless Shelter on December 1st for its 10th season. Like last year, we will house women. Please watch for details on how you can volunteer and contribute to the Shelter's success.

The clergy and office staff have seen an increase in street traffic the end of summer and beginning of fall. This is a time of year when people are "on the move" before winter sets in. These individuals come with deep pastoral needs which are time consuming for the clergy to help them navigate. Please keep our Outreach ministries in your daily prayers as we strive to show Christ's love to our neighbors, friends and strangers.

Old Business -

Church Interior Restoration Project: Flyers with a letter and pledge card will be going out to all parishioners in the near future. A start date for the painting of the walls was discussed, and we are hoping to have this first leg of the project complete for Christmas.

New Business -

Father Hartt discussed what some of the outcomes of this year's General Convention. He handed out some literature including a letter from Bishop Love regarding decisions made at Convention. The October vestry meeting will be moved to Wednesday October 10th due to the Capital City Rescue Mission Banquet which will be held on Tuesday October 9th. In order for some to attend this banquet, the vestry voted to move the meeting with a motion by C. Gordon, seconded by D. Spath, and unanimously approved by the vestry.

Associate Rector's Report - Mother Sue

Pastoral needs of the parish filled the summer months with much activity for your priests. We are thankful for the support of so many parishioners of St. Peter's to help fill these various pastoral needs. There are many who carry the burdens of others. We are a truly parish family. This summer our office staff transitioned again and Janice Chenot jumped in picking up all the extra office duties (again). Although Janice always gives tirelessly to our church, she went above and beyond this summer and we are so grateful for her help. We don't often think of the number of times Janice has stepped in, sacrificing her own summer plans, to keep our church running smoothly over the summer months during these times of transition. She has our deepest appreciation and prayers. I am excited to welcome Ruth Manss as our new Administrative Assistant. Ruth has many years of office experience and has been training with us diligently these past two weeks, showing an excellent skill set and great care for her work. I am certain she will support the parish well. Please welcome her among us and help her continue to transition. The Book and Bible Study on Tuesday evenings (open to women and men as well) begins September 18th, meeting from 5:00-6:30pm. We are studying the Lord's Prayer as found in Matthew (in both English and Koine Greek), and also reflecting on Evelyn Underhill's *Abba* (one chapter weekly). This study will deepen one's understanding of and connection to The Lord's Prayer, providing deeper attachment to it while praying it both privately and corporately during church services. Daughters of the King: The Daughters continue to hold intercession for St. Peter's Church. Please let us know of your prayer needs. We are also doing a study together: *Spiritual Tools for the Journey*. At the September meeting, we discussed chapter 3. We will read and discuss chapter 4 at the October meeting. Upcoming activities of the DOK include collecting toiletries for the Women who will be in our Overflow Homeless Shelter this winter. Please watch for more details on this service projects and get involved as you can! Commission on Ministry: I continue to serve as Chair for the Commission on Ministry helping Bishop Love and the Diocese of Albany. In this role, I assisted at a retreat for Ordination Postulants and Candidates this past weekend at the Spiritual Life Center (9/7-10). We currently have 31 individuals discerning a call to the Priesthood or Diaconate. Please continue to pray for Vocations within our church. Continuing Education: I will be attending a Clergy Conference with the Diocese of Down and Dromore in Donegal, Ireland October 5-14, 2018.

Adjournment A motion to adjourn was made by F. Hershey and seconded by N. Creagan, then was passed unanimously by the vestry.

Compline Father Hartt led Compline.

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Paul J. Hartt.....Rector
The Rev. Susan Waldron.....Associate Rector
Neil K. Keen, F.A.G.O.....Organist & Choirmaster
Laura Rulison.....Director of Christian Education
Ian Mike.....Sexton
James P. Shortall.....Assistant Sexton
Ruth Manss.....Administrative Assistant
Janice Chenot.....Office Volunteer
E. Constance Powell.....Historian & Archivist

Vestry

Deborah Spath.....Senior Warden
James Chenot.....Junior Warden
George Scala.....Treasurer
Nancy Creagan, Christie Gordon, Fred Hershey, Maria Holden,
Stephanie Lencewicz, Tim Murphy, Ashley Spath

How to Contact Us

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Website:

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Services

Sunday

Holy Communion 8:30 a.m.

Holy Communion 10:30 a.m.

(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

(2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays)

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Holy Communion 12:05 p.m.

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

107 State St.

Albany, New York 12207

